People adorn themselves with their jewels only during festivals; they are ordinarily kept in bags closed by a curious rectangular padlock, which is provided with one or two interior bolts; it must be undone with an enormous key which the Tuareg always have on their person.

Fig. 45. Ahaggar Tuareg women's ear hoop.

Arts and Crafts Among the Ahaggar Tuareg

The nomadic and pastoral life which the Tuareg lead obviously limits the development of craft techniques and that of art itself. For them, all is reduced to the immediate necessities of everyday life -- articles for the household and the house itself, harnesses, clothing, and, accessorily, adornment.

If we look for the raw materials used and at the disposal of the Tuareg for making the different objects which they need, we observe that wood comes first, then leather, then certain graminaceae stems, and finally metals.

32 If, secondly, we look for the aptitudes which the Tuareg have for working these different raw materials, we notice that their enumeration follows the same order as above, with the reservation 325 463 564 that none of them know how to work metals. The latter occupations are the prerogative of the Enaden, that is to say, the artisans, and it is evident from this that without the artisans' help Tuareg industry would be limited to work in wood, leather, and esparto. In short, it is the cultural cycle of the pastoral peoples of the steppe.

[174] It is only much later, when the Tuareg had integrated the Enaden with their social organization, that they used metals. Therefore, [415 531] we perceive the considerable role which artisans must have played in technical evolution and that of art itself.

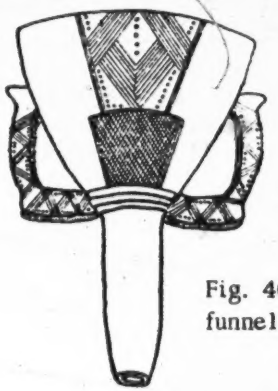

Fig. 46. Wooden funnel.

/277/ The presence of Enaden in the camps has reduced the manual labor [322] of the Tuareg, but the latter are still able to make wooden articles -- milking vessels, bowls, tent stakes, etc.

565 462 322 431 One of their most curious customs is that women from the high nobility work wooden vessels and funnels with their hands by means of a little adze. They usually give them to the wives of their Imrad, who are very appreciative of these gifts. In the Ahaggar camps we found many little utensils which were the work of famous noble-women, of tamenokalin whose names are piously kept; these objects were saved with much veneration. This custom is even more re-[174] markable since we know the scorn that the Tuareg have for manual labor; we must see in it a relic of woodworking which must formerly have been everyone's work, without distinction, before the creation of the artisan class.